

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1082

Sponsors: Senators Blust; Ballance, Ballantine, Basnight, Carpenter, Carrington, Cochrane, Conder, Dalton, East, Forrester, Foxx, Garwood, Gulley, Hartsell, Horton, Jenkins, Jordan, Kincaid, Kinnaird, Ledbetter, Lee, Lucas, Martin of Pitt, Martin of Guilford, McDaniel, Miller, Odom, Page, Phillips, Rand, Reeves, Rucho, Shaw of Cumberland, Shaw of Guilford, Soles, Warren, Webster, Weinstein, Wellons, and Winner.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

June 5, 1997

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF THOMAS B.
2 SAWYER, SR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. was born in Tapoco in Graham County,
4 North Carolina, on April 9, 1918, to Pleas M. Sawyer and Edna Garland Sawyer; and

5 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. graduated from Duke University in 1938
6 and received a law degree from Emory University in 1947; and

7 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr.'s long and distinguished career included
8 practicing law, owning and serving as president of a realty company, teaching real
9 estate, working for the North Carolina Department of Insurance, and serving as
10 president of WSSB radio station in Durham; and

11 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. rendered distinguished service to North
12 Carolina as a member of the General Assembly; and

13 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. represented Durham County in the Senate
14 from 1950 to 1952, represented Guilford County in the House of Representatives from
15 1972 to 1978, and represented Guilford County in the Senate from 1995 to 1996; and

16 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. sought to further serve the people of North
17 Carolina by running for Governor in 1956, and the United States Senate in 1978; and

1 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. proudly served his country during World
2 War II as a member of the 36th Field Artillery Unit of the United States Army and for
3 his distinguished service during this war, received several decorations; and

4 Whereas, after his tour of active duty, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. continued to
5 serve the army in numerous capacities, including his service as an instructor at the
6 Command and General Staff School at the Pentagon and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and

7 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel on
8 March 26, 1960, while a member of the United States Army Reserves; and

9 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. was a former Department Commander with
10 the Disabled American Veterans, a former State Commander with Amvets, a member of
11 the Reserve Officers' Association, and a member of the American Legion, Post 368; and

12 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. was a deeply religious man, attended Duke
13 Divinity School for one year, and was an active member of the Our Lady of Grace
14 Roman Catholic Church of Greensboro; and

15 Whereas, Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr. died on March 19, 1996, and leaves to
16 mourn him his wife, Dorothy Siler Sawyer; his daughters, Floy S. Blanton and Sharon
17 S. Nelson; his sons, Pleas M. Sawyer, III, Joseph B. Sawyer, Thomas B. Sawyer, Jr.,
18 Wendell H. Sawyer, and Gregory W. Sawyer; 25 grandchildren; and two great-
19 grandchildren; and

20 Whereas, in the untimely death of Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr., his family, the
21 General Assembly, Guilford County, and the State of North Carolina lost a good friend
22 and colleague and an admired and respected man;

23 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

24 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Thomas B.
25 Sawyer, Sr. and expresses the deep gratitude and appreciation of this State and its
26 citizens for his life and service to North Carolina.

27 Section 2. The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family
28 and friends of Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr.

29 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
30 resolution to the family of Thomas B. Sawyer, Sr.

31 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.